[English]

T.V. Station at Vashim in Akola District, Maharashtra

522. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a request to start a T.V. Centre at Vashim in Akola District of Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government are aware that Vashim, Risod and Malegaon Tehsils in Akola District of Maharashtra are deprived of the T.V. Centre services; and

(c) if so, by when a T.V. Centre at Vashim in Akola District is likely to start functioning?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) Yes, sir.

(c) A low power TV transmitter is, at present, functioning at Akola. Another low power TV transmitter is envisaged to be set up at Akot in Akola district as part of Doordarshan's Annual Pain 1990-91. Further expansion of TV service in Akola district would depend upon future availability of resources for the purpose.

[Translation]

Issue of O.Bs.

523. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M.T.N.L. takes two-three months period to issue O.B. in spite of the approval by the Minister as a result of which subscribers are facing great difficulty;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor

(c) the number of applications pending with M.T.N.L. so far for issuing O.B.; and

(d) the details of steps taken by M.T.N.L. to issue O.B. immediately to the subscribers?

DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a)and (b). No, Sir. The O.Bs. are issued immediately after the receipt of approval of the Minister except in some cases due to the reasons mentioned below.

(i) The applicants to whom the telephones have been sanctioned by the Minister have not furnished their registration number;

(ii) the address at which the telephone is to be installed does not tally with the address given in the original application;

(iii) the area where the phone is required is technically non-feasible.

(c) 290 cases in M.T.N.L. Delhi Unit and 47 cases in M.T.N.L Bombay Unit are pending for issue of O. Bs.

(d) The following steps have been taken to clear the above pending cases.

(1) Letters have been written to the parties to whom the telephones have been sanctioned requesting them to indicate the Registration Number and address for new telephone.

(2) Plans are underway to expand or open new Remote Line Units (RLUs).

(3) Providing Pair Gain systems wherever cases are technically non-feasible for want of cable pairs.